

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IOE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00

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FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9005

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: AORG, ASAF, FDIP, UN, UR, PK

SUBJECT: ENFORCEMENT OF NEW YORK PARKING REGULATIONS

REF: USUN 232

1. WE PLAN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 3, TO NOTIFY MISSIONS OF MEASURES CUTTING BACK ISSUANCE OF DPL PLATES TO ONE SET PER DIPLOMAT AS OUTLINED REFTEL. TAKING INTO ACCOUNT DEPARTMENT'S COMMENTS CONVEYED BY TELECON, WE HAVE REDUCED TO SEVEN, NUMBER TO BE DEPRIVED OF SECOND DIPLOMATIC PLATE AT PRESENT.

2. IN ORDER TO HAVE BROADER IMPACT ON BEHAVIOR OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY, WE ALSO INTEND TO ISSUE ON WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, WARNING TO PRINCIPAL VIOLATORS HOLDING SINGLE DIPLOMATIC PLATE THAT UNLESS THEIR COMPLIANCE WITH NEW YORK TRAFFIC REGULATIONS IMPROVES MARKEDLY DURING COMING MONTHS, THEIR SINGLE DPL PLATE WILL BE RECALLED. THIS GROUP TOTALS 24, INCLUDING EIGHT SOVIET DIPLOMATS. IT IS COMPOSED NOT OF OCCASIONAL OFFENDERS, BUT OF THOSE WHO PARK ILLEGALLY AS A MATTER OF REGULAR PRACTICE. THEY AVERAGE MORE THAN ONE TICKET A DAY (I.E. OVER 100 TICKETS IN THREE MONTH PERIOD). NO CHIEF OF MISSION INCLUDED IN EITHER GROUP.

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3. IF WE RECALL DPL PLATES NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF MOTOR VEHICLES IS PREPARED TO ISSUE REGULAR NON-DPL PLATES WITHOUT COST AND DIPLOMATS DRIVING THESE CARS WOULD HAVE THEIR PARKING FINES EXCUSED I.E. THEIR DIPLOMATIC P & I WOULD BE UNAFFECTED. HOWEVER, INCONVENIENCE TO THESE DIPLOMATS WOULD BE CONSIDERABLE AND POSSIBLE LOSS OF PLATES SHOULD PROVE TO BE ENCOURAGEMENT TO OBEY PARKING REGULATIONS.

4. ONCE WARNING IS GIVEN, WE ARE COMMITTED TO CARRYING IT OUT. IF WE RETREAT, DIPLOMATS WILL FEEL THAT THEY HAVE CALLED OUR BLUFF SUCCESSFULLY AND WILL PAY LITTLE IF ANY ATTENTION TO FUTURE ADMONITIONS. WE RECOGNIZE DIFFICULTIES INVOLVED. THIS IS, HOWEVER, ONE OF REW AVAILABLE SANCTIONS. WE HAVE TRIED MERE WORDS WITHOUT SUCCESS AND GROWING PRESSURES FROM NEW YORK AUTHORITIES AS WELL AS BITTER CRITICISM IN NEW YORK COMMUNITY HAVE LED US TO CONCLUDE THAT PRICE OF NO ACTION IS TOO HIGH. WE HAVE EXPLORED ALL ALTERNATIVES OVER A PERIOD OF MANY MONTHS AND CONCLUDED THAT THESE STEPS ARE MOST PRACTICAL.

5. IT IS OUR HOPE NOT TO HAVE TO USE SANCTIONS WIDELY, BUT THAT EVIDENCE OF OUR SERIOUSNESS WILL HAVE SALUTARY IMPACT ON MOST OF DIPLOMATIC COMMUNITY.
BENNETT

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